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## DIGEST

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Talbot

HB No. 1474

**Abstract:** Prohibits any resident of this state from being required to obtain or maintain health insurance coverage and from being penalized for failure to do so. Also authorizes the attorney general to initiate litigation relative to such prohibition.

Proposed law states the policy of the state that its residents have freedom of choice in selecting their health care coverage without governmental intrusion and without penalty.

Proposed law provides that no state resident shall be required to obtain or maintain a policy of individual health insurance coverage regardless of what program or plan he is offered. Further provides that no such resident shall be liable for any penalty or fine for not obtaining or maintaining health insurance coverage.

Proposed law provides that the state's attorney general may and shall have standing to pursue litigation in any federal or state court or any administrative forum on behalf of any state resident whose constitutional rights may be subject to infringement by an act of congress or the implementation of a federal legislative program that relates to or has any impact upon the rights or interests of state residents as provided in proposed law.

Proposed law provides that after implementation of any provision of law requiring an individual to obtain or maintain health insurance, the following shall apply:

- (1) If the individual opts not to obtain or maintain health insurance coverage and incurs but fails to pay any expenses for medical care in this state and the health care facility or provider is compensated for such care by any state or federal funds, then the state shall collect such unpaid amounts from that person through any legal means necessary.
- (2) The uncompensated care pool of this state shall not incur any liability for unpaid medical bills of any person who does not obtain or maintain health insurance.

(Adds R.S. 22:1016)

### Summary of Amendments Adopted by House

#### House Floor Amendments to the engrossed bill.

1. Required that, after implementation of any provision of law requiring an individual to

obtain or maintain health insurance, the following apply:

- (a) The state shall legally collect any unpaid amounts for a health care facility or provider that is compensated for care by any state or federal funds from any individual who incurs but fails to pay any expenses for medical care in this state because the individual opted to not obtain or maintain health insurance coverage.
- (b) The uncompensated care pool of this state shall not incur any liability for unpaid medical bills of any person who does not obtain or maintain health insurance.